

C. P. B. Sean  
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J. LOPEZ-FYI  
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PO Box 503, Amesbury, MA 01913

June 10, 2015

Amesbury Planning Board  
62 Friend Street  
Amesbury, MA 01913

Dear Amesbury Planning Board Members,

We're writing in regards to the development proposed for the subdivision 47 ½ to 57 Kimball Road to place eight homes on this property. Because the property lies within the Lake Attitash Watershed, the property is moderately sloped, thirty percent of the property is wetlands and some of the property is within the FEMA flood zone, we recommend that an **environmental impact analysis** be completed before approval by the planning board. The analysis should recommend improvements to the development project to ensure that Lake Attitash will not be negatively affected.

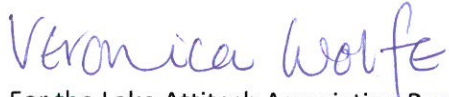
As the city realizes, the water quality on Lake Attitash has been compromised from years of nutrient run-off from impervious locations surrounding the lake. Run-off from homes, roads and farms has taken their toll on the water quality. During three out of the past four summers the MA Board of Health has placed the lake under a "no contact" warning during some summer weeks due to cyanobacteria blooms. The nutrients have built up in the sediment and release under certain conditions. The University of New Hampshire, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and volunteers from the Lake Attitash Association (LAA) have worked tirelessly to study and test the lake. The EPA just recently completed the Lake Attitash Assessment Report, which we have included with this letter. The LAA has hired Ken Wagner, a leader in lake and pond management, to review the assessment report and to make additional recommendations. It's vital that nutrient sources (more impervious space, fertilized lawns, stormwater run-off) be reduced not potentially increased.

The subdivision project includes rain gardens, a private roadway drainage system and vegetative swales. One issue lies with the ongoing maintenance of these beneficial nutrient collection areas. There is no enforcement to ensure that these areas are maintained. When the measures put in place by the engineer are not maintained then stormwater run-off will make its way into the wetlands and begin damaging the watershed. The Spindletree subdivision project (also within the watershed) included a clause within the homeowner's deeds banning phosphorus fertilizer. Unfortunately, there is no enforcement and fertilizer trucks are spraying many lawns during the spring, summer and fall. Another

issue not addressed within the project is that it's important to include what type of rain event the plans are built to handle. Our 100 year storms are becoming more frequent.

We would like the upcoming peer review, as requested by the board during the public hearing on June 8<sup>th</sup>, to take into consideration the fragility of Lake Attitash as a vital source of the city's drinking water and a valuable recreational resource and to recommend an environmental impact analysis to protect the city's irreplaceable resource.

Sincerely



For the Lake Attitash Association Board of Directors

Veronica Wolfe, Secretary

[lakewolfe@verizon.net](mailto:lakewolfe@verizon.net)



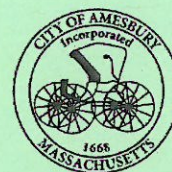
# **Lake Attitash Assessment Report**

## **May 29, 2014**

Hilary Snook  
USEPA Region I Laboratory  
Chelmsford, MA



## DOCUMENT INTAKE FORM

Date Jan 11, 2015

Property Owner

Property Address (Street, City, Zip)

Cynthia Roberts5 5<sup>th</sup> Street Amesbury MA 01913

If not the Property Owner, then state your relation to the Property Owner

Applicant's Representative

Name

Name of Firm

Your Address (Street, City, Zip)

Email Address

Telephone

Fax

City of Amesbury

Board/Committee/Permit Granting Authority - PGA

(Choose That Apply)

☒  
☐  
☐  
☐

Planning Board

Conservation Commission

Zoning Board of Appeals

Other

☐  
☐  
☐

Historical Commission

Tree Board

Design Review Committee

Project Name:

New project 47 1/2 - 57 Kimball Rd

Materials Submitted

(Choose That Apply)

Have you already filed an Application with PGA

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

Permit Application - NEW

Supplemental Information

Information Requested by PGA

Responses to Peer Review

Responses to Technical Assistant Group

Other For peer review

If Yes, then List ALL Permits

Permit Type

Permit Filing Date

Materials	Description	Original Date	Revision Date	No. of Copies
Plans				
Technical Documents				
Other	<u>Lake Ahtash Assessment Report 5/29/14</u>			<u>1</u>

Purpose of Submission  
/ Requested Action

Acknowledgement

I understand that the materials submitted here are subject to the submission deadline of respective PGA and give my consent to be placed on the PGA's Agenda accordingly.

Signature

Cynthia Roberts

Office Use Only

Office of Community &amp; Economic Development, 62 Friend Street Amesbury MA 01913

Received By

Joni

Date

6/17/15

6-11-15  
 \*e-mail sent requesting additional copies + electronic version for file